

Malacothrix glabrata (Desert Dandelion)

Family: Asteraceae (Composite)

Status: Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: Canyon, Owyhee Counties, Idaho
Malheur County, Oregon
Arizona, California

Idaho

T2N, R3W Dautrick Memorial Property, S of Lake Lowell
T3S, R2W, Sec. 2 1963 record, 2 miles S of Murphy
T3S, R1E, Sec. 7, 29, 31 SE above Sinker Creek
T5S, R3E, Sec. 17 (or adjacent) 1951 record, W of Grand View
T5S, R11E, Sec. 7 1911 record, E of Glenn's Ferry
T6S, R6E, Sec. 11, 32 1963 record, Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park and
SE of Bruneau
T7S, R3E, Sec. 3 11 miles S of Grand View
T7S, R5E, Sec. 30 1956 record, about 7 miles SW of Bruneau

Soil Type: Barren sandy or ashy hills

Habitat and Ecology: An annual found on dry, somewhat barren sandy or ashy sites in gray rabbitbrush-Nama eretioides habitat, from 2,900-3,700 feet. The plant appears to be capable of storing water in its roots. It is occasionally found with several other uncommon plants. It is distinguished from the similar, common dandelion by its leafy stem and usually multiple heads. Stems are from 10-60 cm tall. Blooms May to June.

Threats: Off-road vehicles

Key Characteristics

Flowers yellow
Pinnately dissected leaves
with linear lobes
Stems leafy at or near the
base



Malacothrix torreyi (Torrey's Malacothrix)

Family: Asteraceae (Composite)

Status: Review species on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Canyon, Custer, Owyhee Counties, Idaho
Malheur, Harney Counties, Oregon
Arizona, Nevada, Southern Wyoming, S. Utah

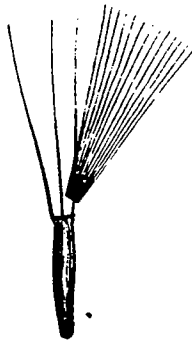
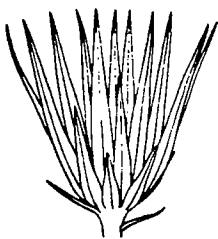
Idaho

T3N, R5W, Sec. 2 SENE behind Trueblood farm near Homedale
T14N, R18E, Sec. 3 NW of Challis
T2S, R3W, Sec. 29 NW near Reynolds Creek
T3S, R1E, Sec. 25 along Snake River below Wild Horse Butte
T7S, R2E, Sec. 23 SE near Perjue Canyon S of Grandview
T16S, R4W, Sec. 13 Bull Camp

Soil Type: Reports vary from sandy to gravelly on top of lacustrine to clay ash soils

Habitat and Ecology: An annual known from dry desert areas, occasionally growing with bud sage. In Utah it is found in the salt desert shrub community. In Idaho it has been collected from 2,600 up to 5,800 feet, but still within the salt desert shrub community. The plant has a wide range but is infrequent throughout. It is usually from 10-30 centimeters tall, and the leaf shape distinguishes it from the preceding Malacothrix glabrata. Blooms May and June.

Threats: Range improvement projects, off-road vehicles



Key Characteristics

Annual
Flowers yellow
Pinnately dissected leaves
with irregularly toothed lobes

Mentzelia mollis (Smooth Stickleaf)

Family: Loasaceae (Blazing Star)

Status: Federal Category II (C2) recommended for Endangered status

Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho
Malheur County, Oregon (4 sites)

Idaho

T1S, R5W, Sec. 4, 20 1959 record, about 15 miles W of Walter's Ferry
T1S, R5W, Sec. 9 NW, 19 center, 31 N1/2 about 15 miles W of Walter's Ferry
T1S, R5W, Sec. 34 1946 record, between Squaw and McBride Creeks
T2S, R5W, Sec. 36 W of Reynolds
T3S, R5W, Sec. ?
Jump Creek, 6 miles NE of the ID-OR border, approximately T1N, R5W

Soil Type: Green, brown, white, or grey volcanic ash derived from the Succor Creek Formation

Habitat and Ecology: A low annual that is highly selective in its soil-type preference and habitat requirements and has a very narrow range (30 x 15 miles). Elevations for the sites are 4,200-4,600 feet in the Wyoming big sage-Shadscale zone. Associated species on the barren sites are few and include povertyweed, Phacelia lutea, and sometimes Chaenactis cusickii (another sensitive species). Even though it is an annual, continued destruction of its required habitat has resulted in a marked decline in population size. Blooms May and June.

Threats: Off-road vehicle activities
and range improvement programs (several
sites already disturbed by these activities)

Key Characteristics

Petals narrowly ovate,
bright yellow flowers
Plant 5-12 cm tall
Leaves entire, oblanceolate
Volcanic ash endemic
Annual



Mentzelia torreyi var. acerosa (Torrey's Blazing Star)

Family: Loasaceae (Blazing Star)

Status: Priority one on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Ada, Elmore, Gooding, Owyhee, Twin Falls Counties, Idaho
Mono County, California
Nevada

Idaho

T2S, R1E, Sec. 17 1946 record, Snake River Canyon
T5S, R12E, Sec. 6 SW 8 miles E of King's Hill
T6S, R3E, Sec. 27 1946 record, 5 miles S of Grandview
T6S, R5E, Sec. 33 1956 record, Sugar Creek, SW of Bruneau
T6S, R11E, Sec. 7 NE, 22 SW of Bliss
T6S, R13E, Sec. 33 NE on Snake River, across from mouth of Malad River
T7S, R3E, Sec. 4 SENW, 5 10 miles S of Grandview
T7S, R6E, Sec. 3, 26, 34, 36 NE of Indian Bathtub ?
T8S, R5E, Sec. 19 1971 record, about 10 miles SW of Bruneau
T8S, R6E, Sec. 3, 9 1947 record, Indian Bathtub area
T8S, R13E, Sec. 10 SENW near Thousand Springs
T8S, R14E, Sec. 29 SENW, 32 1949 record, several miles W of Buhl
T9S, R5E, Sec. 5 1964 record, 17 miles S of Bruneau
T9S, R14E, Sec. 10 near mouth of Mud Creek
T9S, R15E, Sec. ? Snake River Canyon, 10 miles NW of Filer
area below the Bliss Dam
Guffey Butte
several sites along Salmon Falls Creek

Soil Type: Barren sandy lacustrine soil or volcanic cinder

Habitat and Ecology: A caespitose perennial of barren sandy or volcanic soils from 2,900-3,500 feet in Idaho. It is typically found in the Wyoming big sage-grassland zone or shadscale zone, and often grows with shadscale, Nama sp., and white-stemmed blazing star. Southern Idaho is the northern limit of its range. In late summer and fall the plant is still easily recognized and often breaks loose, blowing around like a very small tumbleweed. Blooms May and June.

Threats: Off-road vehicles,
increased agricultural
development

Key Characteristics

Branched spiny white
pubescent stems and
leaves
Flowers orange

Nemacladus rigidus (Rigid Thread-Stem)

Family: Campanulaceae

Status: Monitor species on the State Sensitive Plant List

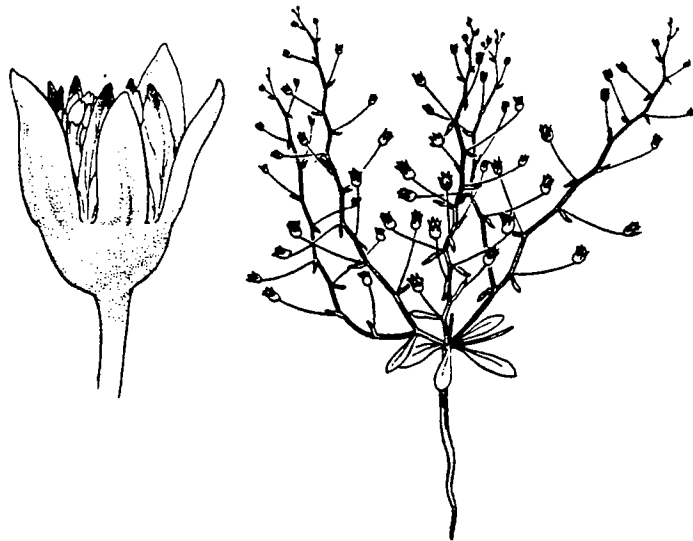
Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho
Harney, Malheur Counties, Oregon
NE California, N Nevada

Idaho
T2S, R3W, Sec. 32 SE 10 miles W of Murphy, 1.5 miles E of Reynolds

Soil Type: Loose, sandy, cindery or ashy outcrops, cracks in basalt, or in dried mud

Habitat and Ecology: An exceedingly infrequent annual, known to have been collected only twice in Idaho. Known from the shadscale-sagebrush zone, the plant has been collected at 3,700 feet in Oregon up to 6,500 feet in California. Annuals are unpredictable in their occurrence, making them difficult to inventory or monitor. This species should be watched for and its sites protected from all hazards. Blooms May to June.

Threats: Off-road vehicles, range improvement programs



Key Characteristics

Compact annual to 10 cm tall
Herbage dark greenish-purple or
brownish-purple
Stems spreading, often multi-branched
Flowers white, inconspicuous

Pediocactus simpsonii var. robustior (Simpson's Hedgehog Cactus)

Family: Cactaceae (Cactus)

Status: Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: Cassia, Idaho, Nez Perce, Owyhee Counties, Idaho
Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming

Idaho

T2S, R3W, Sec. 16 NE N of Reynolds
T8S, R1E, Sec. 23,24,13 West Fork Shoofly Creek
T8S, R2E, Sec. 2,28,36 East Fork Shoofly Creek
T8S, R3E, Sec. 27,31,35 John's Pasture, Little Jack's Creek
T9S, R2E, Sec. 1 Little Jack's Creek
T10S, R4E, Sec. 4 S1/2,9 Wickahoney Creek
T12S, R5W, Sec. 31,32 W of Grasmere
T13S, R5W, Sec. 6 W of Red Canyon
Reynolds Creek, half-way up
Juniper Mountain, SE and E of Red Canyon
near City of Rocks, SE Idaho

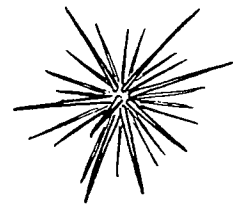
Soil Type: Dry rocky or sandy soil

Habitat and Ecology: Grows on benches and canyon rims on rocky or sandy soil. Associated with low sage, bud sage, Sandberg bluegrass, and Erigeron bloomeri. This cactus variety is relatively widespread in southern Idaho, and even though it is somewhat protected by its habitat, it may be exploited by cactus collectors.

Threats: Commercial collectors



habit



Key Characteristics

Only barrel cactus in S. Idaho
Pink flowers

Peraphyllum ramosissimum (Squaw Apple)

Family: Rosaceae (Rose)

Status: Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: Washington County, Idaho

Nye County, Nevada

Baker, Grant, Malheur Counties, Oregon

California, S Utah

Idaho

T11N, R4W, Sec. 13 SWSW, 24 NW 12 miles E of Weiser

T13N, R5W, Sec. 14 SE, 23 NE, 25 NE, 35 near Sage Creek, 15 miles NE of Weiser

T14N, R5W, Sec. 33 1938 record

T15N, R5W, Sec. 33 1938 record S of Sturgill Peak and about 10 miles E of Brownlee Reservoir

Mann Creek, toward headwaters N of Weiser, historic record

Soil Type: Clayey silt of volcanic origin

Habitat and Ecology: A shrub of dry slopes, either brushy or open, in the sagebrush-grassland and mountain brush zones. This is a browse species highly selected for by both livestock and wildlife. Livestock over-browsing and trampling of seedlings may be a threat to the remaining isolated Idaho populations. The plant is fairly abundant in one drainage on the Oregon side of the Snake River. Its limited occurrence on the Idaho side possibly illustrates dispersal problems within the species. Blooms May to June.

Threats: Over-grazing, particularly warm season grazing by livestock



Key Characteristics

Shrub

Flowers white to pink

Fruits fleshy, apple-like,
small, red in color

Leaves alternate, entire or
minutely serrate

Peteria thompsonae (Spine-Noded Milk-Vetch)

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)

Status: Federal Category 3C and Priority 2 on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho
Arizona
Southern Nevada
Southern Utah

Idaho

T7S, R6E, Sec. 34 SWNESW just N of Indian Bathtub
T8S, R6E, Sec. 3,9 SW,21 NW Off Blackstone-Grasmere Road, near and S of
Indian Bathtub
T8S, R5E, Sec. 18 1956 record, 13 miles S of Bruneau

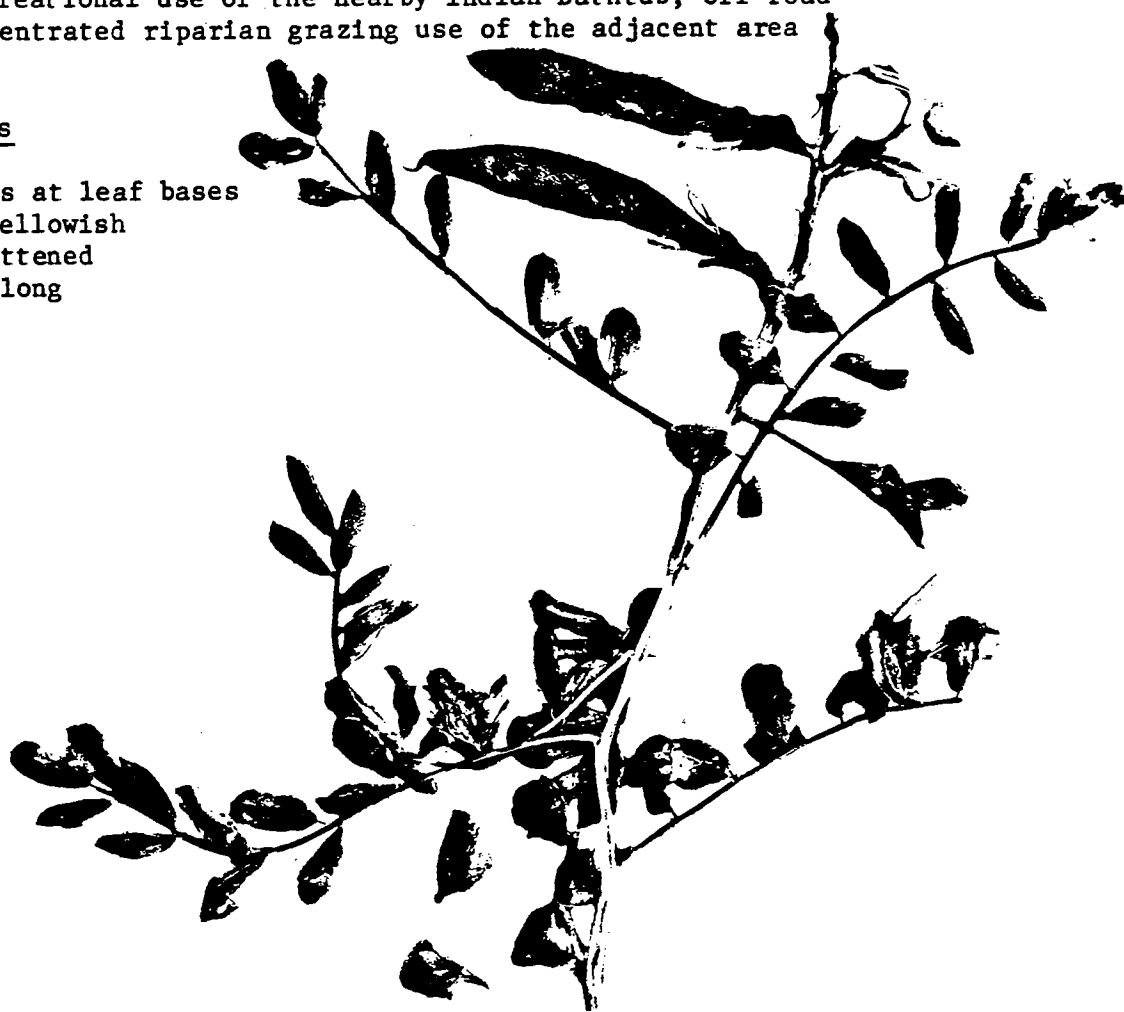
Soil Type: Small, marble-sized volcanic cinder

Habitat and Ecology: A perennial disjunct of barren areas with thin cinder soils. At low elevations in Idaho from 2,600-3,200 feet. Found with purple sage, shadscale, and annual Eriogonums. Up to 5,800 feet in southern Utah, where it is found in the pinyon-juniper and mixed desert shrub communities. Our one Idaho population is apparently a small disjunct population. Blooms May to June.

Threats: Heavy recreational use of the nearby Indian Bathtub, off-road vehicles, and concentrated riparian grazing use of the adjacent area

Key Characteristics

Small, sharp spines at leaf bases
Flowers white to yellowish
Pods straight, flattened
Pods 1.5-3 inches long



Phacelia lutea var. calva (Malheur Yellow Phacelia)

Family: Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf)

Status: Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: N Owyhee County, Idaho
NW Humboldt County, Nevada
E Malheur County, Oregon

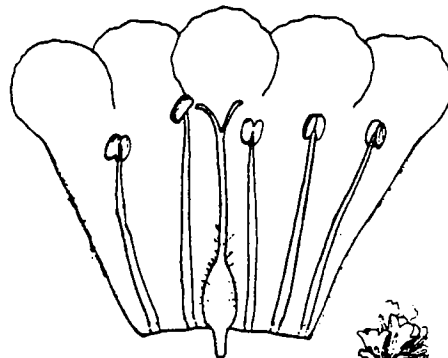
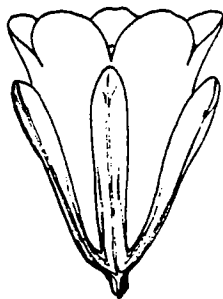
Idaho

T1S, R5W, Sec. 9 NW, 19 center, 28, 30 about 21-25 miles SW of Marsing
T1S, R6W, Sec. 36 1959 record
T2S, R6W, Sec. 11, 12 W of Hwy 95 along Dry Creek Rd, 1-2 miles from border
T3S, R6W, Sec. 14 Succor Creek
T15S, R5W, Sec. 28 Blackstone Spring
T1N, R4W, Sec. 13 W 1/2, 22, 24 6-8 miles SW of Marsing
T2N, R5W, Sec. 27 Jump Creek Canyon, 8 miles SW of Marsing
T3N, R6W, Sec. 26, 35 NE just E of the Oregon-Idaho border

Soil Type: Loose volcanic ash mixed with some clay

Habitat and Ecology: An annual that is freely branched at the base, laying prostrate and forming mats on the soil, sometimes up to 1.5 feet across. It is restricted to volcanic ash soils in the Wyoming big sage-Sandberg bluegrass-bluebunch wheatgrass or salt desert shrub zones. It frequently grows in monoculture because few plant species can grow in the unstable ashy soils. However, it has been found with Mentzelia mollis, another rare annual. This variety is difficult to separate from the others, which can grow intermixed in population sites. They may not be separate heterogenes, or varieties. More studies need to be done and specimens collected so that the species can be reevaluated. Blooms May to June.

Threats: Off-road vehicles, mining



Key Characteristics

Restricted to ash soils
Flowers yellow to orange, 5-7
mm long
Prostrate and sometimes
mat-forming
This variety has glabrous
herbage, or is glandular
only in the inflorescence



Phacelia minutissima (Least Phacelia)

Family: Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf)

Status: Priority 2 on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Camas, Owyhee Counties, Idaho
Elko County, Nevada
Wallowa Mountains, Oregon

Idaho
T4S, R3W, Sec. 7 SENW 1972 record, N of Slack Mountain on powerline road
Soldier Mountains, two sites, 1900 record

Soil Type: ? Moist sites

Habitat and Ecology: An annual of moist open places at middle elevations in the mountains. Reportedly found in mountain big sage-aspen communities, at 6,400 feet in the Owyhee Mountains. The plant is known from only four disjunct locations, two of those being in Idaho, where it hasn't been collected since 1972. The plant should be searched for, its habitat defined, mapped, and avoided by any projects that would disturb the vegetation. Blooms in July.

Threats: Uncertain

Key Characteristics

Annual*

Plant grows to 10 cm tall

Flower inconspicuous, lavender



Primula wilcoxiana (Wilcox's Primrose)

Family: Primulaceae (Primrose)

Status: Federal Category 3b and a Review species on the State Sensitive Plant List

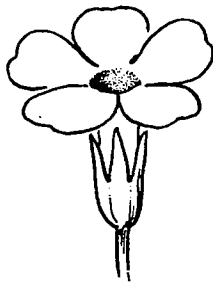
Known Locations: Ada, Boise, Elmore, Gem Counties, Idaho

T1N, R6E, Sec. 11 Long Gulch Creek, 2.5 miles NW of Danskin Peak
T1N, R8E, Sec. 30 SWSW Granite Creek, along road to Smith Prairie
T2N, R7E, Sec. 7,8,11 NE,31 South Fork Boise River
T3N, R2E, Sec. 2 center at end of Eastway Street on N end of Boise
T3N, R4E, Sec. 21 Mouth of Mores Creek
T3N, R6E, Sec. 31 opposite Soap Creek, above the South Fork Boise River
T4N, R2E, sec. 14 west of center,15,36 NESW Boise foothills
T4N, R3E, Sec. 20 SWSW, 31 NESW Boise foothills
T5N, R2E, Sec. 24
T6N, R1W, Sec. 30 1-2 miles S of Emmett
T6N, R2W, Sec. 25 NESW near Emmett
T7N, R2E, Sec. 28 near Horseshoe Bend
T9N, R3E, Sec. ? 1/2 mile E of Banks on the South Fork Payette River
T1S, R6E, Sec. 3 Willow Creek, 5 miles SW of Danskin Peak
T1S, R11E, Sec. ? 3.3 miles S of the Hill City Store

Soil Type: Moist hillsides of loamy soils, often with clay

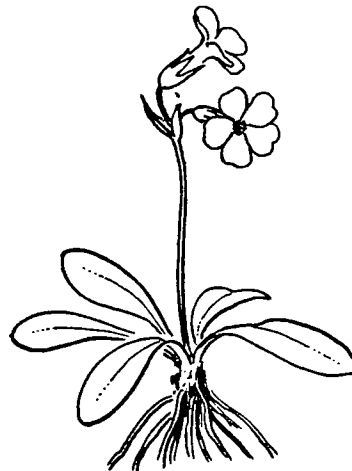
Habitat and Ecology: An early-blooming perennial found on steep, north-facing slopes in the mountain big sage-Idaho fescue and bitterbrush-sagebrush zone. It frequently grows in snowdrift areas on mats of moss. Its leaves are very similar to those of the shooting star, which occupies the same habitat, and the two are difficult to tell apart without flowers. The taxonomy of this group has not been worked out. Primula cusickiana is very similar and the two species might be lumped in the future, in which case neither would be considered rare. A thorough search for new populations of this taxon is needed. Blooms March and April.

Threats: Heavy grazing in spring, increasing housing developments, off-road vehicles



Key Characteristics

Flowers bluish-violet to
purplish
Leaves entire
Plants to 9 cm tall



Low tufted perennial
Deciduous straight awn